

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
OMB-01 CU-04 /066 W
-----010442 280841Z /21

R 280600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5134
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1070

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR CH US BM
SUBJ: IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRC AND US
MILITARY ATTACHES

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PERTINENT PORTIONS
OF A REPORT PREPARED BY THE U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHE
CONCERNING A RECENT PRIVATE MEETING INITIATED BY
HIS PRC COUNTERPART WHICH INDICATED THE LATTER'S
DESIRE FOR A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP.

BEGIN TEXT

2. MR. LI CHING, PRC MILITARY ATTACHE, REQUESTED
U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHE VISIT AT HIS OFFICE 21 MARCH
TO ADDRESS DETAILS OF A DINNER TO HONOR THE DEPARTING
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE. (NOTE:
DETAILS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT AT A PREVIOUS MEETING.
THUS, SINCE DATT (CHAIRMAN ONPLANNING SUB-CMTE)
WAS INVITED WITHOUT OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS, THE
STATED AND REAL PURPOSES WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT THE
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SAME).

3. THE MEETING LASTED NINETY (90) MINUTES. FROM
THE OUTSET MR. LI CHING WAS IN GOOD HUMOR AND ES-
PECIALLY FRIENDLY. HE USED ENGLISH FOR SOME SMALL
TALK WHICH HE SEEMED TO HAVE WELL REHEARSED, AND
DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING HE REFERRED TO

DATT ON SEVERAL OCCASSIONS AS "GOOD FRIEND." THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING SEEMED TO BE AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT ENHANCING THE PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S. DATT AND, AS DESCRIBED BELOW, TO DISCREDIT THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING:

A. DINNER FOR DEPARTING DIRECTOR, DDSI. AS EXPECTED TOPIC WAS EXHAUSTED AFTER A REVIEW OF PLANS.

B. IMPROPER ACTION BY USSR MILITARY ATTACHE. COL. KHAVINOV, USSR MILITARY ATTACHE, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED CHAIRMAN OF A COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ATTACHE CORPS ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES (U.S. DATT WAS DESIGNATED A MEMBER). AS A METHOD OF SOLICITING CORPS OPINION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, COL. KHAVINOV SENT TO EACH MEMBER A QUESTIONNAIRE WITHOUT FIRST ADDRESSING THE MATTER WITH MR. LI CHING (DEAN OF THE CORPS). MR. LI CHING EXPRESSED A VERY STRONG FEELING THAT COL. KHAVINOV HAD NO RIGHT TO CIRCULATE THE QUESTIONNAIRE WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING HIM, AND ADDRESSED THE MATTER IN FULLEST DETAIL FOR QUARTER OF AN HOUR. HE SOLICITED MY AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN HE DENOUNCED KHAVINOV'S ACTION, STATING TWICE OR MORE THAT HE COULD "SPEAK FRANKLY" WITH ME BECAUSE
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OF "OUR FRIENDSHIP" (DETAILS OF PROBLEM IRRELEVANT).

C. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRC AND U.S. AMBASSADOR. FOLLOWING REFERENCES TO "OUR FRIENDSHIP," MR. LI CHING SAID IT IS GOOD ALSO THAT "YOUR AMBASSADOR" IS NOW ON "GOOD TERMS" WITH "OUR AMBASSADOR," REFERRING TO A RECENT VERY SMALL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR BEAN FOR AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK AND ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR MO YEN-CHUNG (ONLY OTHER GUEST).

D. U.S.- BURMA RELATIONSHIPS. MR. LI CHING FOLLOWED UP THE FOREGOING COMMENT WITH THE STATEMENT, "IT IS SAID THAT SINCE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR, RELATIONS BETWEEN BURMA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE DEVELOPED FURTHER THAN BEFORE." HE ASKED DATT TO PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF SUCH DEVELOPMENT. ON QUESTIONING MR. LI CHING WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT" REFERRED TO ADVANCEMENT OR CHANGE IN BURMESE-U.S. GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SINCE THE OCTOBER 77 ARRIVAL OF THE AMBASSADOR, OR TO IMPROVED PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BURMESE

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OMB-01 CU-04 /066 W
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R 280600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5135
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1070

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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND AMBASSADOR BEAN. HE WAS APPARENTLY STUCK WITH OBTAINING AN ANSWER TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION AS STATED, SIMPLY ADDING, "WE HAVE HEARD MANY REPORTS THAT YOUR RELATIONS HAD DEVELOPED FURTHER." DATT RESPONDED THAT IS WAS TRUE THE U.S. AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY BURMESE OFFICIALS AND WAS STRIVING TO ENHANCE OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, BUT THAT INSOFAR AS HE WAS AWARE NO SPECIFIC U.S. OR BURMESE POLICY CHANGE HAD OCCURRED SINCE OCTOBER.

4. THE FOREGOING TOPICS AND COMMENTS SEEMED TO SATISFY THE PURPOSE OF THE "MEETING." HE LAPSED THEN INTO ROUTINE "WHAT'S NEW" DISCUSSIONS.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, MR. LI CHING REPEATED HIS "FRIENDS" ROUTINE, ASKING ABOUT DATT'S TENTATIVELY PLANNED TRIP TO PRC IN THE SUMMER (WITH UN TOUR, TWO WEEKS) AND STATED, "AFTER YOUR VISIT TO MY COUNTRY OUR UNDERSTANDING WILL BE MUCH GREATER."
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JOKINGLY DATT ASKED IF IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY GREATER TO ALLOW MR. LI CHING'S ATTENDANCE AT THE NEXT U.S. ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION (SCHEDULED IN MARCH DUE TO WEATHER -- HE HASN'T ATTENDED) TO WHICH HE LAUGHJ, AND SAID, "IF WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS."

6. ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS: MEETING WAS OBVIOUSLY ARRANGED FOR MR. LI CHING TO ADDRESS TOPICS IN FIRST PARAGRAPH. HIS PERSONAL APPROACH SEEMED GENUINE THOUGH STAGED. DATT AND PRC ATTACHES HAVE ENJOYED REASONABLY FRIENDLY THOUGH OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP DURING PRECEDING TWENTY MONTHS.
END TEXT.
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